GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1946
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2007
REGISTRATION OF HANDICRAFTS
Shaheen Shri Abdul Rashid

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) has initiated nation-wide registration of crafts under the Geographical Indication Act in collaboration with the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) to protect the traditional handicrafts of the country;

(b) if so, the details of achievements made in this regard;

(c) whether the registration of traditional handicrafts has been conducted in the country including Rajasthan and Jammu & Kashmir;

(d) if so, the names and number of traditional handicrafts registered by NIFT in the country including Rajasthan and Jammu & Kashmir, State and Union Territory-wise; and

(e) the benefits likely to accrue?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a) Yes, Sir. NIFT has undertaken the project from Development Commissioner (Handicraft) for registration of crafts under Geographical Indication (GI) Act in 20 States including 8 Northern Eastern States.

(b) The project entails in-depth study of the "Handicrafts" in the respective States. The preliminary exercise and exhaustive field studies are complete and the project is in documentation phase. Suitable crafts with GI potential have been identified and GI applications for identified crafts are currently being drafted to be filed with the Registry in Chennai.

(c): The State of J&K has not been included in the project. The project is currently in progress in 8 Northern Eastern States. The process of registration is yet to begin.

(d): No GI Application has been filed as yet.

(e): The project will benefit the artisans and craftsman by creating intellectual property (IP) awareness among them, identification of those crafts which can be registered under the Geographical Indications of Goods Act, 1999 and to assist the artisan community in filling the GI application.